



Why
Study
in the
U.S.?

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Quality:

U.S. colleges are known worldwide for the quality of their facilities, resources, and faculty. Accreditation systems ensure that institutions continue to maintain these standards.

Choice:

The U.S. education system is unrivaled in the choice it offers in terms of types of institutions, academic and social environments, entry requirements, degree programs, and academic specialization.

Diversity:

You can find a mix of people from all different backgrounds and all corners of the globe on U.S. campuses; more than one million international students come to study at U.S. colleges and universities each year.

Value:

As an investment in your future, a U.S. degree offers excellent value for money. A wide range of tuition fees and living costs, plus some financial help from colleges, make study in the United States affordable for thousands of students.

Flexibility:

Students at U.S. universities and colleges may choose from many courses within their college or university and have the option to move from one institution to another. Completing the first two years of a degree at one institution, usually a community college, and then moving to another, usually a four-year degree granting institution, is very common.

Support for International Students:

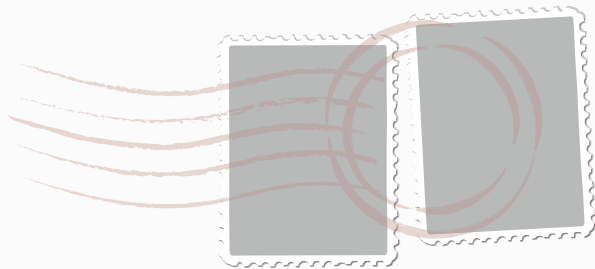
The International Students Office at U.S. colleges and universities offer a variety of services to help you both inside and outside of the classroom. These offices can assist you with English-language skills, visa issues, financial aid and even cultural adjustment while you study abroad in the U.S. In addition, U.S. colleges offer many other resources for students—from career services to mental health services.

FACT: According to the Open Doors Report, in the academic year 2020-2021, the total number of postsecondary international students in the United States was 914,095.



Who can assist you?





THE EDUCATIONUSA NETWORK

EducationUSA is a U.S. Department of State network of over 430 international student advising centers in more than 175 countries and territories. The network promotes U.S. higher education to students around the world by offering accurate, comprehensive, and current information about opportunities to study at accredited postsecondary institutions in the United States. EducationUSA is your official source of information on U.S. higher education.

In Vietnam, EducationUSA Advising Centers are located at the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi and the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City. Our EducationUSA advisors help students determine the necessary steps to apply to college, find information about financial aid opportunities, and select schools that match students' goals and interests. All EducationUSA services are free.

Useful Websites

- EducationUSA website: <https://educationusa.state.gov/>
- EducationUSA Advising Centers in Vietnam: <https://vn.usembassy.gov/education-culture/educationusa/>
- U.S. Embassy in Hanoi Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/usembassyhanoi>
- U.S. Consulate General's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/USConsulateHCMC>



The U.S. Higher Education System

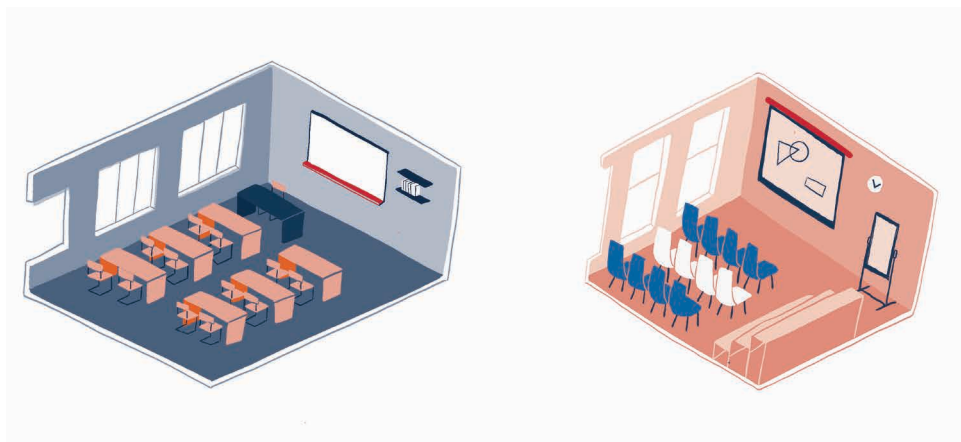
Compared to most other higher education systems around the world, the U.S. system is largely independent from federal government regulation and is highly decentralized. It is also incredibly diverse: there are public and private institutions, very large and very small, secular and religiously affiliated, urban, suburban, and rural. Such diversity means that there is a “right fit” institution for every qualified student.

TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS

The terms “public” and “private” refer to the way universities are financially supported. Public universities may also be called state universities. Since public universities obtain a part of their support from the state in which they are located, the tuition they charge is often lower than that charged by private institutions. Private institutions are funded by a combination of their endowment, tuition fees, research grants, and gifts from their alumni. Tuition fees tend to be higher at private universities than at state universities. Colleges with a religious affiliation and single-sex colleges are private.

Public vs. Private Institutions – Which One Is Right for You?

Both types of institutions have their advantages. It is up to you to decide which type works best for you.



Public

Lower tuition cost

Merit scholarships

Wide range of degree and major offerings

Large campuses often with well-developed athletic centered social scenes

Reputable institutions with strong local, national and sometimes international name recognition

Big array of research facilities and labs

Private

Smaller class size with more discussion-based classes

Merit scholarships and financial aid packages

Opportunities to customize your program of study by working closely with advisers

Well-funded research facilities and labs in leading private universities

Wide range of options: from the most elite of U.S. institutions to very small colleges with limited name recognition

LEVEL OF STUDY

Undergraduate

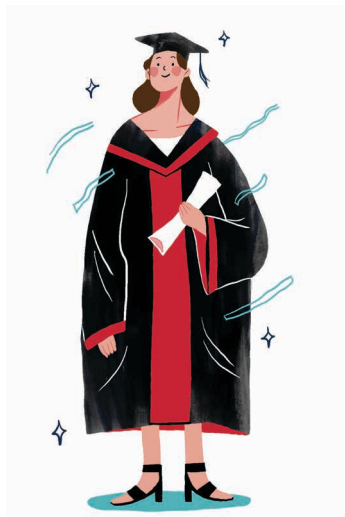
U.S. undergraduate education is based on the concept of “liberal arts,” with the goal of providing a well-rounded academic education that develops students’ verbal, written, and reasoning skills.

Associates Degrees

An associate degree usually takes two years to complete. Associate degree programs may be “terminal” programs, which lead to specific careers upon graduation, or “transfer” programs, which correspond to the first two years of a bachelor’s degree.

Bachelor’s Degrees

A bachelor’s degree may be defined as “an award that normally requires at least 4 but not more than 5 years of full-time equivalent college-level work”. U.S. Bachelor’s degree programs usually include requirements for breadth as well as depth of study and students will fulfill what are called general education requirements for introductory knowledge in several subjects as well as a concentration in one or more subjects, called a “major.”



Graduate

The two graduate degrees offered in the United States are a master's degree and a doctoral degree. Doctoral degrees are mostly research focused, with some coursework and master's degrees are usually more coursework focused but can also have a research component. It is not necessary to have a master's degree to apply for a doctoral program.

Master's Degrees

A master's degree is the first graduate-level qualification in the U.S. higher education system. Master's degrees may be considered terminal professional degrees in some fields, such as the fine arts, or they may be considered as second degrees that may or may not lead to PhD studies. Master's degrees generally take two years to complete.

Doctoral Degrees

A doctoral degree is designed to train research scholars and, in many cases, future college and university faculty members. Receipt of a doctoral degree certifies that a student is a trained research scholar in a specific discipline. Earning a doctoral degree can take anywhere from five to eight years beyond a bachelor's degree, depending on the field of study.

Non-Degree

The United States offers a wide range of study programs lasting 12 months or less, including high school exchange programs, work and professional exchange programs, vocational and technical programs, short-term university study, and professional study.

Accreditation

"Accreditation" is a review of the quality of higher education institutions and programs. In the United States, accreditation is a major way that students, families, government officials, and the press know that an institution or program provides a quality education. In the U.S., accreditors are private, nongovernmental organizations created for the specific purpose of reviewing higher education institutions and programs for quality. Colleges, universities, and programs are accredited by one of 19 recognized institutional accrediting organizations. Programs are accredited by one of approximately 60 recognized programmatic accrediting organizations.

College, University or Institute?

Degree-granting institutions in the United States can be called by any of these terms, and colleges and institutes are in no way inferior to universities. As a general rule, colleges tend to be smaller and usually offer only undergraduate degrees, while universities also offer graduate degrees. An institute usually specializes in degree programs in a group of closely related subject areas, so you will likely come across degree programs offered at institutes of technology, institutes of fashion, and institutes of art and design, among others.





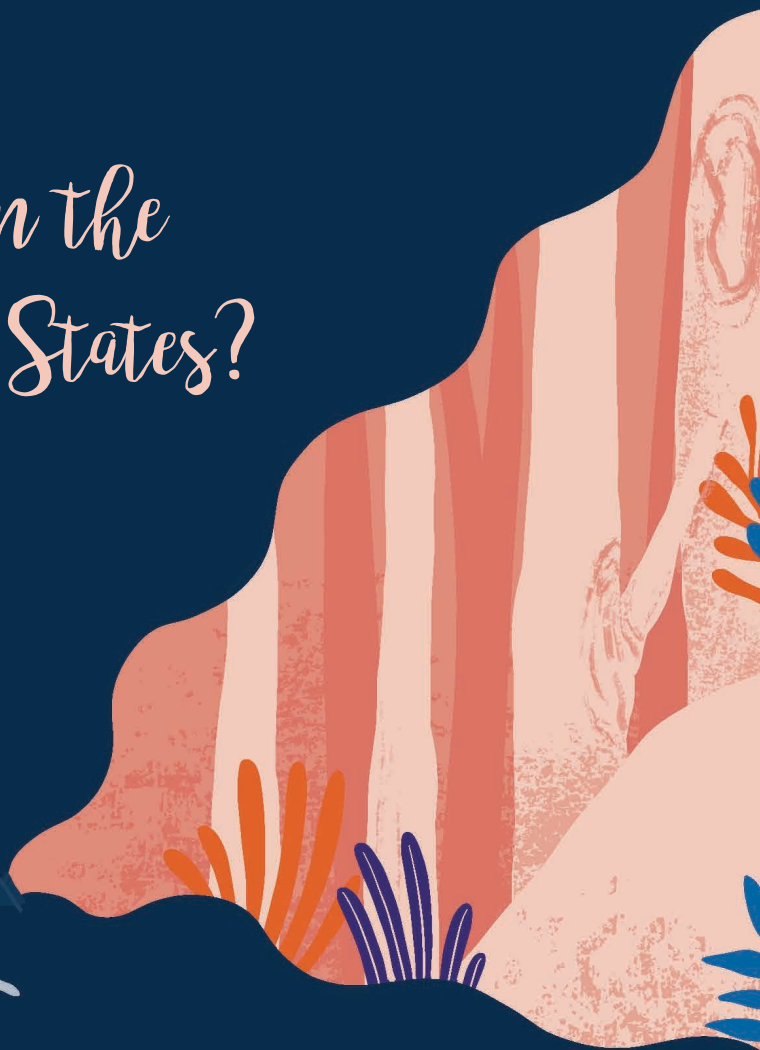
FACT: In the U.S., accreditors are private, nongovernmental organizations created for the specific purpose of reviewing higher education institutions and programs for quality. In most other countries, accreditation (or quality assurance) is carried out by governmental organizations.

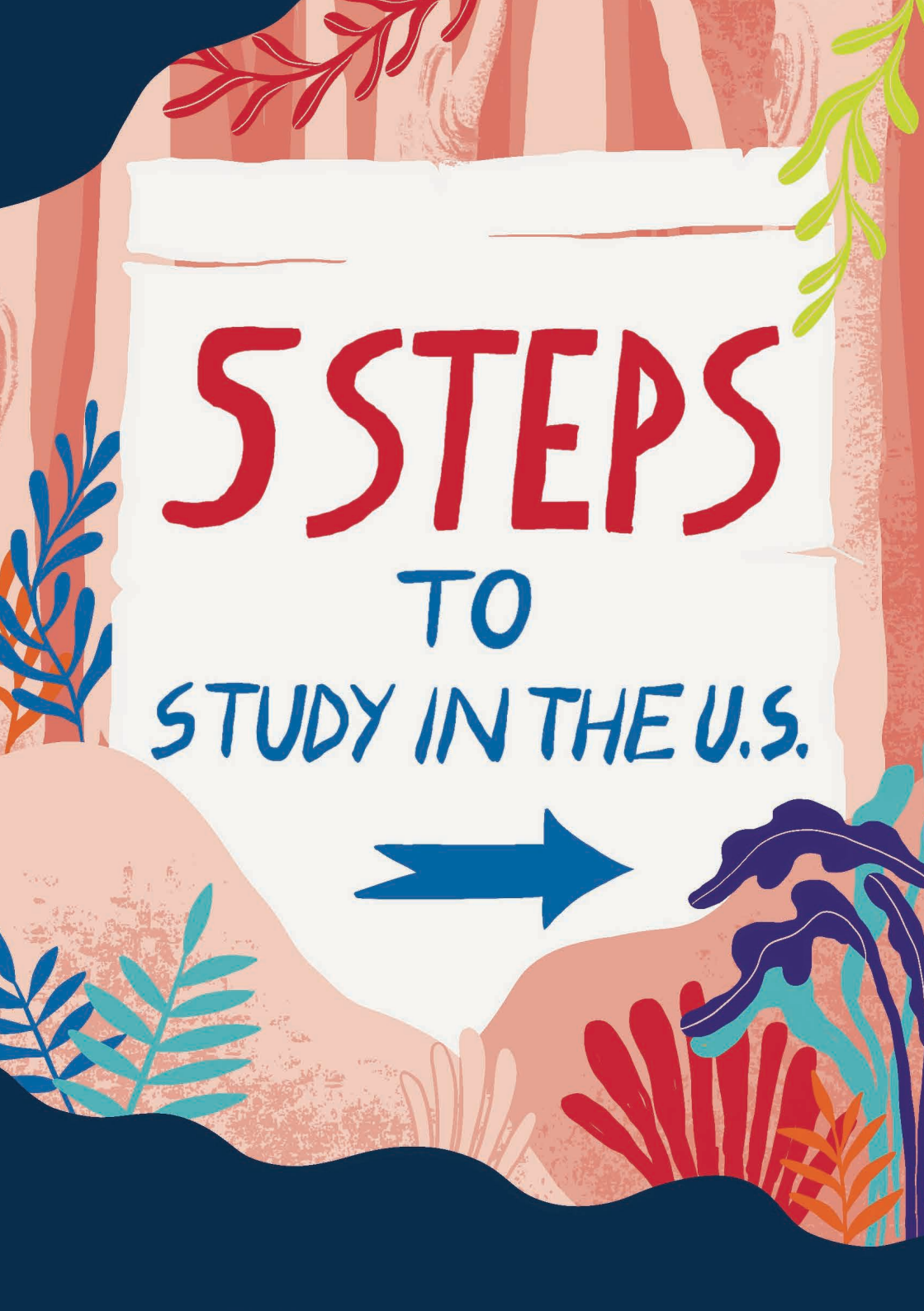
Useful Websites

- U.S. Network for Education Information (USNEI) <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ous/international/usnei/edlite-index.html>
- American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) <https://www.aacc.nche.edu/>
- Distance Education Accrediting Commission <https://www.deac.org/>
- Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) <https://www.chea.org/>
- U.S. Department of Education Postsecondary Education Accreditation <https://www.ed.gov/accreditation>
- The Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training (ACCET) <https://accet.org/>
- Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA) <https://cea-accredit.org/>
- University and College Intensive English Programs <https://www.uciep.org/>
- EnglishUSA <https://www.englishusa.org/>
- Exchange and Scholarships opportunities for Vietnamese students, scholars and professionals <https://vn.usembassy.gov/education-culture/>
- U.S. Department of State programs website <https://exchanges.state.gov/non-us>
- Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange <https://www.alliance-exchange.org/>

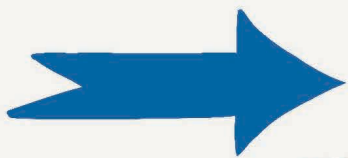


How to study in the United States?





5 STEPS TO STUDY IN THE U.S.



Step 1:

Research your Options

Choosing universities from thousands of miles away presents some challenges - especially when there are so many great colleges to choose from in the United States. But if you plan ahead and do your research carefully, you will come up with a manageable list of colleges that match your needs. Start your application process 12 - 18 months prior to the academic year that you plan to study in the United States.

Remember that there is no official ranking system for colleges and universities in the United States.

There are private organizations who rank colleges and universities according to different metrics, but rankings can only provide

limited insight about the education you will receive. The best

college or university is the one that is best for you, and meets your requirements:

academic, financial, and personal.

Start by answering these basic questions and define your own priorities.





Start by answering these basic questions to define your own priorities.

**WHERE WILL
YOU FIT
IN BEST?**

**WHY DO YOU
WANT TO STUDY
IN THE
UNITED STATES?**

**WHICH COLLEGES
OR UNIVERSITIES
WILL MEET
YOUR NEEDS?**

**WHAT ARE THE
APPLICATION,
SCHOLARSHIP
AND FINANCIAL
AID DEADLINES?**

**WILL YOU NEED
FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE?**

**WHERE DO YOU
WANT TO
LIVE IN THE
UNITED STATES?**

Keep in mind that the schools you apply to must be certified by the Student Exchange Visitor Program. You can find a searchable list of certified schools on the Department of Homeland Security's Study in the States website at <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/school-search>

FACT: There are over 4,000 accredited universities and colleges in the United States. There is no official list of the top 10, 20, 50, or even 100 universities in the United States. The U.S. government does not rank universities. Many rankings are subjective and may be based on criteria that do not include academic standards or general reputation as primary factors.

Useful Websites

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security Certified Schools <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/school-search>
- Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) <https://www.chea.org/>
- U.S. Department of Education Database of Accredited Institutions and Programs <https://ope.ed.gov/dapip/#/home>
- College Board Big Future <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- The Princeton Review <https://www.princetonreview.com/>
- National Center for Education Statistics College Navigator <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
- The Common Application Find a College <https://www.commonapp.org/explore>
- GradSchools.com <https://www.gradschools.com/>
- Peterson's <https://www.petersons.com/>





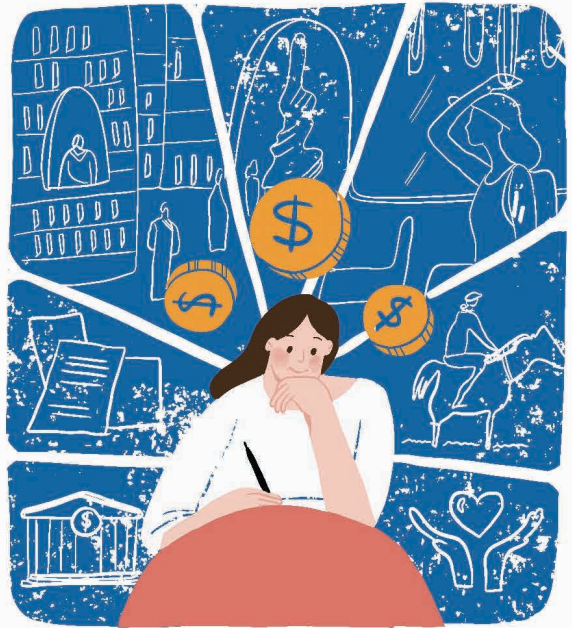
INVEST *in* YOURSELF!

The cost of studying and living varies across the United States. With the right amount of planning and research, pursuing a U.S. higher education can be made affordable with a high return on investment.

Understanding differences in education and living costs across the U.S., as well as the different financial assistance packages at U.S. schools that you might be eligible for, will enable you to be realistic in choosing your best fit school in terms of cost.

COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)

COA is an estimate of tuition (the cost of instruction) and fees (costs associated with services such as the library system, student activities, or the health center), the cost of room and board (or living expenses), the cost of books, supplies, transportation, loan fees, insurance, and miscellaneous expenses (including a reasonable amount for the documented cost of a personal computer), costs related to a disability, and reasonable costs for eligible study-abroad programs.



SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

What is a merit scholarship for international students? It is the free money that a U.S. school provides to a student to help pay for school and other expenses. It is awarded to students who show a certain level of achievement in specific areas, such as academics, athletics, or the arts. Merit scholarships are awarded to students regardless of their financial status.

What is financial aid for international students? Many private institutions in the U.S. offer financial aid (or need-based scholarship opportunities) to international students. It's the free money that a U.S. school provides, based on a student's demonstrated financial need, to help pay for school and other expenses. While school procedures vary, prospective international students may be required to fill out several forms that schools use to determine a student's financial need such as a CSS Profile, and an ISFAA, both of which are distributed by the nonprofit: College Board. Some universities may use FAFSA or have their own forms.

Assistantship and Fellowship

At the graduate level, about one-third of international students finance their studies through financial aid from U.S. universities. Availability of financial assistance varies by field of study, level of study, and type of institution. Research universities are likely to have the most funds available. Keep in mind that some universities will give aid to graduate students only after they have successfully completed their first semester or first year of study.



Fellowships:

Departments and institutions award fellowships on the basis of academic merit, often times after the first year of study. Graduate fellowships may be modest, covering only tuition and fees, or full grants, providing the cost of tuition, fees, and monthly stipends for maintenance. Fellowships rarely cover the total cost of living and studying.

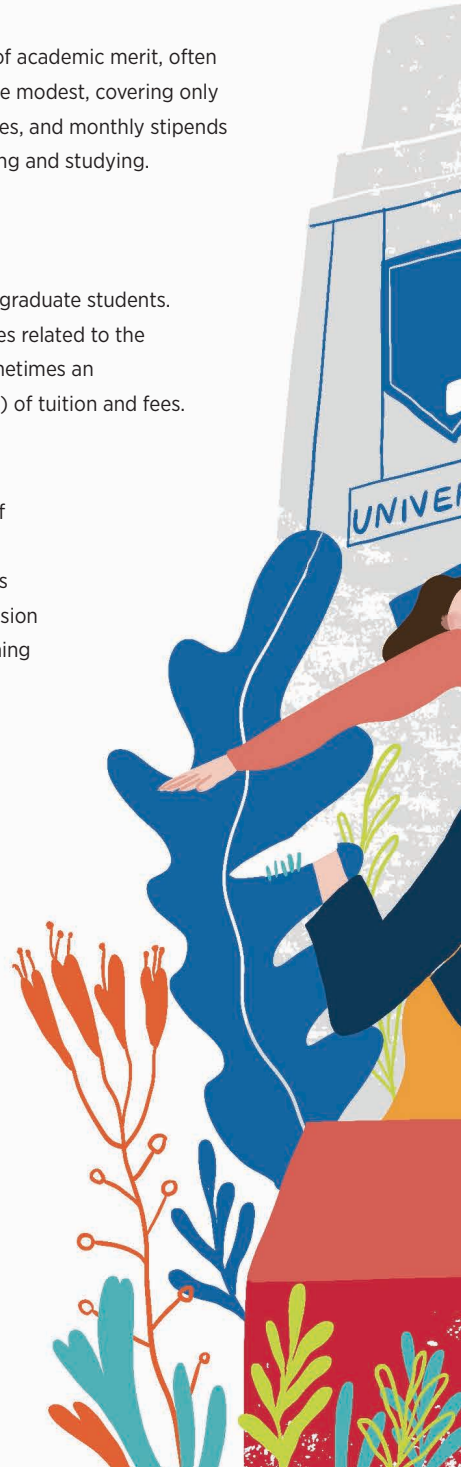
Assistantships:


Assistantships are the most common form of financial aid for graduate students. These are cash awards that require the performance of services related to the student's field of study, usually about 20 hours per week. Sometimes an assistantship carries with it a waiver (a remission or reduction) of tuition and fees. There are several types of assistantships:

- **Teaching Assistantships** may be available for the first year of graduate study in university departments with large numbers of undergraduates in introductory courses. Teaching assistants (TAs) supervise undergraduate laboratory classes, lead discussion groups, or teach small classes. Many universities require teaching assistants to prove they can speak English proficiently (either with TOEFL/ IELTS results or via an interview) or to complete training programs that prepare them to teach in the United States. If you are interested in applying for a teaching assistantship, be sure to mention in your application any previous teaching experience.

- **Research assistantships** involve performance of research services related to your field of study. The advantage of a research assistantship is that it can be related to your dissertation or long-term academic interests. Research assistants (RAs) are chosen for their demonstrated research and interpersonal skills, computer and writing ability, and experience working as part of a team.

- **Administrative assistantships** usually require 10 to 20 hours per week working in an administrative office of the university such as the International Student Office.





FACT: You don't need to have a perfect academic record or to be economically disadvantaged to be awarded a scholarship or financial aid package. Applying for scholarships and financial aid is well worth your time and effort regardless of what kind of student you are or what your background looks like.

Useful Websites

- EducationUSA

<https://educationusa.state.gov/your-5-steps-us-study/finance-your-studies>

- EducationUSA Advising Centers in Vietnam

<https://vn.usembassy.gov/education-culture/educationusa/>

- Institute of International Education (IIE) <https://www.fundingusstudy.org/>

- The World Bank Scholarships <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/scholarships>

- The American Association of University Women (AAUW) International Fellowships and Grants

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/current-opportunities/international/>

- The CSS Profile <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

- College Board List of higher education institutions that offer financial aid to international students (as of 2020)

<https://international.collegeboard.org/financial-aid-international-students>



Step 3: *Completing your Application:*

Once you have a shortlist of colleges that match your needs, interests, and abilities and are confident that you have met the minimum entrance requirements and can afford the costs of a U.S. undergraduate education, you are ready to start putting together your applications.

What do Schools look for in your Application?

School Transcripts:

Transcripts are a record of your past education and include a list of classes that you have taken (in high school or in undergraduate programs), when you took them, and the grades you received for each class.

Letter of Recommendation:

You will usually be asked for at least two recommendations. The people who write your recommendations must be able to write about your work and assess your potential to do well at university.

Evidence of English Language Proficiency (TOEFL/IELTS/PTE...):

As an international student from a non-English speaking country, you are always required to prove that your English language capabilities will support your successful attendance at a college/program in the U.S. Check the institution's website to know what English proficiency test they accept and their minimum test scores.

Essay vs Statement of Purpose:

At the undergraduate level, the essay gives universities a chance to get a personal glimpse of you, an insight that is not possible in the grades and numbers that make up the rest of your application. It also allows admissions officers to assess your writing skills, academic ability, organizational skills, purpose in applying to the institution, and your reasons for your chosen field of study. Some colleges look for certain qualities in potential students and tailor their essay questions accordingly.

The statement of purpose, which is part of the application process at the graduate level, enables the admissions committee to see if there is a good match between you and the department or school and whether the degree program can meet your needs. Write a clear, concise, and persuasive statement that sincerely reflects your views and aspirations.

Other Standardized Tests Scores (SAT/ACT/GRE/GMAT):

At the undergraduate level, the purpose of the SAT or ACT is to measure a high school student's readiness for college and provide colleges with one common data point that can be used to compare all applicants. The test score will be reviewed alongside other documents that the student submits. How important SAT/ACT scores are in the college application process varies from school to school. At the graduate level, the GRE exam assesses the suitability of applicants for graduate-level study across many different subject areas. The GMAT™ exam is specifically designed for admission to graduate business and management programs.

Not all schools/programs in the U.S. require these standardized test scores. In fact, many put them as optional. Make sure you know if the school/program you're applying to requires any of these test scores.

Extracurricular Activities:

Almost anything you do outside of the classroom can count as an extracurricular activity. In general, colleges are not looking for particular activities; rather, they are looking for commitment and accomplishment in your activities.

Portfolio:

A portfolio gives a sampling of your creative talent and the type of work you take an interest in doing. A collection might include artwork, musical compositions, fashion designs, architectural drawings ect...

Financial forms:

Most universities include a form called a “Declaration and Certification of Finances” or an “Affidavit of Financial Support” in their application packets. This must be signed by your parents, or whomever is paying for your college expenses, and then certified by a bank or lawyer. If you plan to apply for financial aid from U.S. schools then you will also have to fill out and submit several forms that schools use to determine your financial need such as a CSS Profile, ISFAA or FAFSA.

THE COMMON APPLICATION

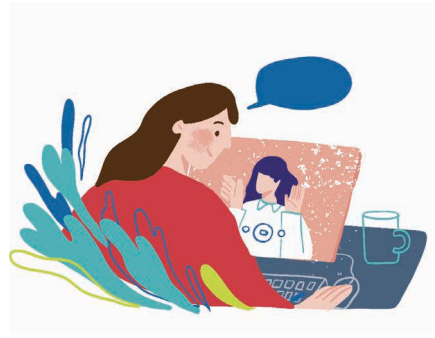
The Common Application is an undergraduate college admission application that prospective students may use to apply to any of more than 900 member colleges and universities in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. These member colleges and universities guarantee that they will give the same consideration to the Common Application as to their own forms. Instead of filling out the same general information—like your address, GPA, and extracurriculars—a dozen times, you only have to do it once. The Common App dashboard also helps you track necessary application documents (like your letters of recommendation) and important deadlines.



INTERVIEW

Some U.S. universities and colleges might want to interview their candidates. Former students of the university (called alumni) who happen to reside in a particular country usually conduct these interviews. Interviews can also be conducted online. International students are not at a disadvantage if they are unable to be interviewed, but if you are offered the chance

to have an interview do not turn it down; it is a good opportunity to practice your communication skills, and learn more about the school directly from a former student, or from the school itself.



FACT: If you do not meet the minimum English language requirements, there is a possibility to increase your chances of getting accepted into your desired degree program by applying to a school with conditional admission.

Useful Websites

- The U.S. Department of Education <https://www2.ed.gov/>
- The Common Application <https://www.commonapp.org/>
- College Board <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/interviews>
- Test Optional <https://fairtest.org/university/optional>
- The SAT <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>
- The ACT <https://www.act.org/>
- The TOEFL <https://www.ets.org/toefl>
- The IELTS <https://www.ielts.org/>
- The PTE <https://pearsonpte.com/vietnam/#>
- The GRE <https://www.ets.org/gre>
- The GMAT <https://www.gmac.com/> or <https://www.mba.com/exams/gmat>



Step 4: Apply for your Student Visa

The United States welcomes foreign citizens to come to the United States to study. Before applying for a visa, all student visa applicants are required to be accepted and approved by their school or program in the United States.

F-1 VISA

This is the most common type of student visa. If you wish to engage in academic studies in the United States at an approved school, such as an accredited U.S. college or university, private secondary school, or an approved English language program then you will need an F-1 visa. You will also need an F-1 visa if your course of study is more than 18 hours a week.

M-1 VISA

If you plan to engage in non-academic or vocational study or training at a U.S. institution, such as flight training or culinary training, then you will need an M-1 visa.

J-1 VISA

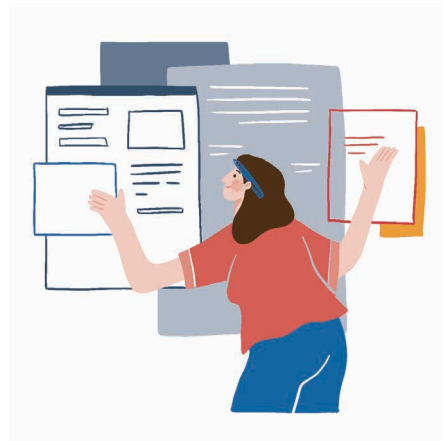
If you are approved to participate in an exchange visitor program in the United States, then you will need an Exchange visitor (J) visa.

I-20

All F and M students that study in the United States need a Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status." Once accepted into a Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-certified school, international students will receive a Form I-20 from their designated school official (DSO). The Form I-20 is an important document that you should keep safe, as you will need it throughout the international student life cycle.

PAYING THE I-901 SEVIS FEE

Before you pay the I-901 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Fee, you must receive the Form I-20 from a DSO at the school you plan to attend. You will need information from the Form I-20 to pay the fee. The I-901 SEVIS Fee is mandatory and must be paid before you enter the United States.



PAYING THE VISA FEE

Students are required to pay a non-refundable, non-transferable visa application fee, sometimes referred to as an MRV fee, before applying for their F-1 or M-1. The visa application fee must be paid whether a visa is issued or not. The fee amount for an F-1 and M-1 visa is currently \$160. This nonimmigrant visa fee is valid for one year from the date of payment.



SCHEDULING YOUR VISA INTERVIEW

New students:

If this is your first time applying for your student visa, you will need to have an interview at either the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi, or at the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City. Your student visa can be issued up to 120 days in advance of the start date for your course of study. However, you will not be allowed to enter the United States on your student visa more than 30 days before your start date.

Continuing students:

If your prior student visa expired no more than 48 months ago, and you meet all the other requirements for a renewal without an interview, you may qualify to renew your visa by mail. Continuing students may enter the United States at any time before classes start.

MAINTAINING YOUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT STATUS

While studying in the United States, it is important to maintain your F or M student status. Your status relates to the purpose, or reason why you want to come to the United States. The U.S. Department of State issues you your visa based on your intended purpose.



If the Department of State issues you an F or M student visa, this means that you are coming to the United States to study. You should not take any action that detracts from that purpose. Maintaining your status means:

- Fulfilling the purpose for why the Department of State issued you your visa.
- Following the regulations associated with that purpose.

GOOD TO KNOW: Because visa interviews are short, do your best to explain why you want to study in the United States, what your program entails, how you plan to support yourself while in school, and what your plans are after your studies are completed.



Useful Websites

- U.S. Department of Homeland security regulations <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/>
- Maintaining your international student status
<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/maintaining-status>
- Applying for a student visa <https://www.ustraveldocs.com/vn/>
- Non-Immigrant visas <https://vn.usembassy.gov/visas/nonimmigrant-visas/>
- Paying the I-901 SEVIS fee
<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/prepare/paying-the-i-901-sevis-fee>

Step 5:

Preparing for your Departure:

Once you have secured your place at a U.S. college, it is time to begin making plans for your new life as an international student in the United States. Although there are a few things you cannot do until you have obtained your visa, much planning can be done ahead of time to make your move to the United States go more smoothly.



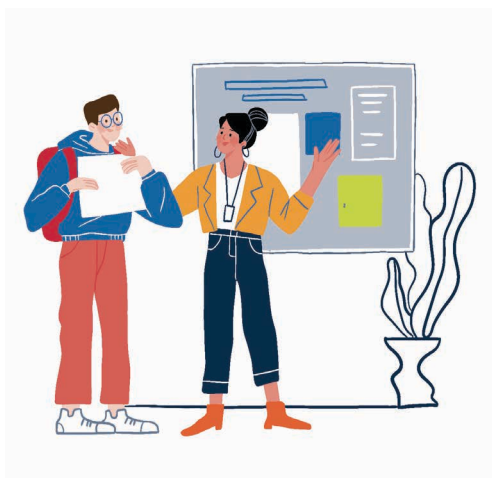


- Make sure you attend an EducationUSA Pre-Departure Orientation in Vietnam.

- You should receive further information about your new school and the procedures for your arrival on campus. This should include details about the best way to reach campus, and who to contact when you arrive. Plan to arrive on a weekday, if possible, when the school's administrative offices are open.

What is it Like to Study in the United States?





Orientation:

Many U.S. universities hold arrival orientations for new international students in order to familiarize them with campus and its facilities, and to help them adjust to life in the United States. The orientation lasts up to one week and may be optional, but you are strongly advised to attend. It is also a good opportunity to make friends.

Housing Options:

Living on campus can be an incredibly beneficial and positive experience for students, whether engaging in student activities, making friends in the residence halls or apartments, or taking advantage of student life programming. However, if off-campus housing is available, you might choose to move out of university housing after your first year. Off-campus accommodation provides many benefits for students, including increased independence, occasionally lower costs, greater freedom and more space.

Residence Halls and Dormitories:

Most U.S. universities expect freshmen to live on campus. This means you will almost certainly share a room in a university dormitory or apartment with at least one other student.

Off-Campus Housing:

This might include commercial apartments, rental houses and more. In general, graduate students tend to live off-campus.

Special Interest Housing:

A distinctive feature of U.S. university housing is special-interest housing organized around particular academic areas, cultural backgrounds, or leisure interests. It is a way for students with common academic or cultural interests to live together. This type of housing can be open to first-year students or, at some schools, may be limited to upperclassmen.



Student Life:

U.S. universities that regularly admit international students have special staff assigned and trained to work with them. They are usually called international student advisers (ISAs) or foreign student advisers (FSAs). You can ask these staff members questions related to your status as an international student or seek their help if you have problems or concerns. They may also organize social and cultural events for international students throughout the year, along with the International Student Office.

In addition to your ISA, you will be assigned an academic adviser (AA), usually a faculty member in your major (if you have specified one). You usually meet with your AA before registering for classes for advice on what classes to take to fulfill graduation and specialization requirements. You can meet with your AA regularly to discuss your academic plans, queries, and progress.

As you adjust to a new academic environment in the U.S., besides taking advantage of the many resources that your school offers, just remember that learning and adaption take time, so don't stress out.

- Active class participation is welcome.
- Ask if you don't understand.
- Respect your coursework deadlines and always complete your assignments.
- Diverse teaching styles (formal or more conversational) are very common, but all professors are willing to listen to you so be ready to express your opinion in class and defend your viewpoint.
- Take advantage of professors' office hours.
- Never plagiarize.



Extracurricular

Activities:

A variety of organizations and activities await you on most campuses. These may include student-run publications, special-interest groups, student-run radio and TV stations, newspapers, sports teams, and social clubs. Getting involved is a great way to make new friends or find colleagues with similar academic or research interests.



Student Employment

The United States allows eligible international students and new graduates the opportunity to gain on-the-job-learning that supplements knowledge gained in their academic studies. To participate in one of the training opportunities below, an international student does not need to change their nonimmigrant status. Instead, the student must work with their designated school official (DSO) to ensure eligibility as well as apply for and receive proper authorization.

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Optional Practical Training (OPT) is a form of training, often paid, that directly relates to your program of study. You can apply for OPT during your program of study, which is known as pre-completion OPT, or after you finish your program of study, known as post-completion OPT. You can apply for 12 months of OPT at each education level, (i.e., you may have 12 months of OPT at the bachelor's level and another 12 months of OPT at the master's level). If you are an F-1 student earning a degree in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM), you may be eligible for an additional 24 months of a STEM OPT extension.

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is an alternative work/study, internship, cooperative education (co-op) or another type of required practicum that a sponsoring employer offers through cooperative agreements with your college or university. CPT is only available for F-1 students when it is part of an established curriculum within a school.

Co-Operative Education (Co-op)

Co-Operative Education (Co-op) is a program that balances classroom theory with periods of practical, hands-on experience prior to graduation. Through a co-op program, students are able to alternate academic study with full-time employment, gaining practical experience in their field of study. International students may participate in their school's co-op program using CPT so long as they are eligible to do so.

M-1 students are only eligible to participate in one type of paid training with an employer, referred to as practical training (PT). Like the F-1 training opportunities, your PT must directly relate to your program of study. PT allows you to gain training experience in your vocational field.

F-1 and J-1 students are also eligible to work on-campus while attending classes. Your work does not need to be related to your field of study. On-campus employment includes work done as a teaching or research assistant as well as jobs in the university library, dormitories, dining facilities, laboratories, or administrative offices.

On-Campus Employment

On-Campus Employment also includes employment with on-site commercial firms which provide services for students on campus, such as stores or restaurants located on campus. You may work up to 20 hours per week while school is in session, and up to 40 hours per week during official university holidays.

Safety and Wellness

Campus security and safety is an important feature of postsecondary education. The U.S. Department of Education, requires that all campuses have detailed emergency alert systems in place, as well as comprehensive crime reporting statistics.

Universities and colleges across the United States have ongoing campus safety measures, including:



- Campus police/security guards
- Police/security patrolling 24/7
- CCTV cameras
- Locked buildings only accessible by students/faculty with IDs
- An emergency action plan
- Practice drills
- Regular training for public safety officers, faculty, staff and students

Although college campuses in the US are generally very safe, student should always be aware of their surroundings and never jeopardize their safety. Follow school's safety guideline and stay alert.

Student Health Center:

The health center provides medical care, and advocates for students by promoting healthy physical and mental behaviors. With an emphasis on prevention, early intervention and risk reduction, the student health center counsels students on healthy habits and how to prevent injury, violence and other threats.

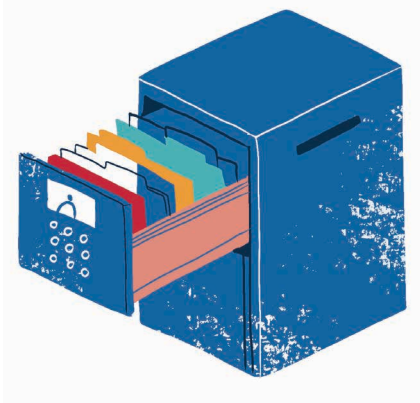
Banking and Money

The United States has national, regional, state, and city-based banks. Some universities have their own credit unions or other banking services. Before opening an account, find out which banks are near to where you will be living and studying. Make sure you bring enough money with you to live on until you can open an account and arrange for funds to be transferred from home.



University Counselling Center:

Provides mental health and other services within a university or college environment. Students can visit the counseling center for a variety of reasons. They may be experiencing trouble with their appetite or sleep, adjustment to a new environment, or concentration problems. Counselors are available to help students with personal, career, or academic issues.



FACT: If other employment opportunities are not available or are otherwise insufficient, an eligible F-1 student may request employment authorization based on severe economic hardship caused by unforeseen circumstances beyond the student's control. These circumstances may include a loss of financial aid or on-campus employment without fault on the part of the student, substantial fluctuations in the value of currency or exchange rates, inordinate increases in tuition and/or living costs, or unexpected changes in the financial condition of the student's source of support, medical bills, or other substantial and unexpected expenses.

Useful websites

- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement - Student Employment <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/employment>
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Training Opportunities for International Students <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/training-opportunities-in-the-united-states>
- School Health Centers <https://www.hrsa.gov/our-stories/school-health-centers/index.html>
- U.S. Department of Education Safety on Campus <https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/campus.html>
- American Life <https://share.america.gov/theme/theme-about-america/>



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This booklet is an abridged version of the *If You Want to Study in the U.S.* series, produced by the U.S. Department of State, which provides unbiased, practical advice to prospective international students and scholars who wish to study in the United States. You can find the complete series on the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi's website at:

<https://vn.usembassy.gov/education-culture/educationusa/>

Readers are invited to visit EducationUSA official website at <https://educationusa.state.gov/> for the latest updates and most current information on studying higher education in the United States.

Links and publications included in this booklet are provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement.

